



Complete Summary

TITLE

Sepsis: percent of eligible patients with severe sepsis or septic shock who were started on activated protein C (APC) within 48 hours following severe sepsis/septic shock identification.

SOURCE(S)

VHA, Inc. Transformation of the intensive care unit: sepsis data collection toolkit. Irving (TX): VHA, Inc.; 2007 Jan 1. 29 p.

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percent of eligible patients with severe sepsis or septic shock who were started on activated protein C (APC) within 48 hours following severe sepsis/septic shock identification.

RATIONALE

Studies show that annually there are between 500,000 to one million cases of sepsis and severe sepsis in American hospitals. The annual mortality rate for these cases is between 15 and 30 percent or as many as 200,000 deaths. Many more patients suffer from permanent organ damage. The cost to society in dollars spent and lives lost prematurely is enormous. While there are many useful clinical interventions, research shows that they are applied inconsistently, if at all.

In a large, well-conducted, randomized trial, the use of activated protein C in patients with severe sepsis was associated with a five percent absolute reduction in hospital mortality and a six percent reduction in 28-day mortality. The risk of bleeding was similar to heparin. While the mortality benefits of this drug are clear, hospitals disagree over exactly which patients should receive this therapy and in which patients the risk/benefit ratio is favorable. For now, most facilities are relying on their own protocols. There are a number of large cohort studies under way to help clarify which patients should receive this therapy.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Severe sepsis; septic shock; activated protein C (APC) administration

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

Total number of eligible patients with a diagnosis of severe sepsis or septic shock (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Number of eligible patients who were started on activated protein C (APC) within 24 hours prior to and 48 hours following severe sepsis/septic shock identification (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Collaborative inter-organizational quality improvement
Internal quality improvement
Quality of care research

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Hospitals

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Advanced Practice Nurses
Nurses
Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Age greater than or equal to 16 years

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

See the "Rationale" field.

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

See the "Rationale" field.

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

A study confirmed that patients with severe sepsis consume significant resources. The average hospital length of stay was 20 days at an average cost of \$22,100. National cost estimates for the care of severe sepsis based on this study is \$16.7 billion dollars, with the care of patients older than 65 costing \$8.7 billion (52.3 percent), and care of those older than 75 costs \$5.1 billion dollars (30.8 percent). The costs for caring for patients with sepsis are projected to rise approximately 1.5 percent per year due to the aging U.S. population.

EVIDENCE FOR COSTS

VHA, Inc. Improving sepsis care in the intensive care unit: an evidence-based approach. Irving (TX): VHA, Inc.; 2004. 60 p.

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

Eligible patients with a diagnosis of severe sepsis or septic shock

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

Total number of eligible* patients with a diagnosis of severe sepsis or septic shock

*Eligibility is determined by inclusion/exclusion guidelines at your institution.

Note: Refer to original measure documentation for definitions and additional details.

Exclusions

Any one of the following:

- Patients less than 16 years of age
- Patients not eligible to receive activated protein C (APC)
- Not Applicable because care was withdrawn or patient expired within 48 hours following severe sepsis/septic shock identification
- Date or Time of severe sepsis/septic shock identification unknown
- Cases with a time elapsed EARLIER THAN -24 hours or GREATER THAN +96 hours. Time elapsed is the difference between severe sepsis/septic shock identification and the administration of APC.

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition
Institutionalization

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window brackets index event

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**Inclusions**

Number of eligible* patients who were started on activated protein C (APC) within 24 hours prior to and 48 hours following severe sepsis/septic shock identification

*Eligibility is determined by inclusion/exclusion guidelines at your institution

Exclusions

Any one of the following:

- Date or Time of APC administration unknown
- APC was "Not administered"

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Fixed time period

DATA SOURCE

Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure**SCORING**

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties**EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

Unspecified

Identifying Information**ORIGINAL TITLE**

Activated protein C (APC) received within 48 hours following severe sepsis/septic shock identification.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Transformation of the Intensive Care Unit \(TICU\) Measures](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

DEVELOPER

VHA, Inc.

FUNDING SOURCE(S)

VHA, Inc.

COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

Internal VHA, Inc. clinical subject matter experts along with external clinical subject matter faculty experts from various National and local research medical centers/hospitals

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None; work was not supported by any third party vendors, contractors or for-profit health care companies including suppliers, device makers, or pharmaceutical firms.

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2004 Jan

REVISION DATE

2007 Jan

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

VHA, Inc. Transformation of the intensive care unit: sepsis data collection toolkit. Irving (TX): VHA, Inc.; 2007 Jan 1. 29 p.

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Activated Protein C (APC) Received within 48 Hours Following Severe Sepsis/Septic Shock Identification," is published in "Transformation of the Intensive Care Unit: Sepsis Data Collection Toolkit."

For more information, contact VHA, Inc. at: 220 E. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039; Phone: 1-800-842-5146 or 1-972-830-0626; Web site: www.vha.com.

COMPANION DOCUMENTS

The following is available:

- VHA, Inc. Improving Sepsis Care in the Intensive Care Unit: An Evidence-Based Approach. Irving (TX): VHA, Inc.; 2004. 60 p.

For more information, contact VHA, Inc. at: 220 E. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039; Phone: 1-800-842-5146 or 1-972-830-0626; Web site: www.vha.com.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on September 23, 2008. The information was verified by the measure developer on November 13, 2008.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

This NQMC summary is based on the original measure, which is subject to the measure developer's copyright restrictions.

Disclaimer

NQMC DISCLAIMER

The National Quality Measures Clearinghouse™ (NQMC) does not develop, produce, approve, or endorse the measures represented on this site.

All measures summarized by NQMC and hosted on our site are produced under the auspices of medical specialty societies, relevant professional associations, public and private organizations, other government agencies, health care organizations or plans, individuals, and similar entities.

Measures represented on the NQMC Web site are submitted by measure developers, and are screened solely to determine that they meet the NQMC Inclusion Criteria which may be found at <http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/about/inclusion.aspx>.

NQMC, AHRQ, and its contractor ECRI Institute make no warranties concerning the content or its reliability and/or validity of the quality measures and related materials represented on this site. The inclusion or hosting of measures in NQMC may not be used for advertising or commercial endorsement purposes.

Readers with questions regarding measure content are directed to contact the measure developer.

© 2008 National Quality Measures Clearinghouse

Date Modified: 12/8/2008

